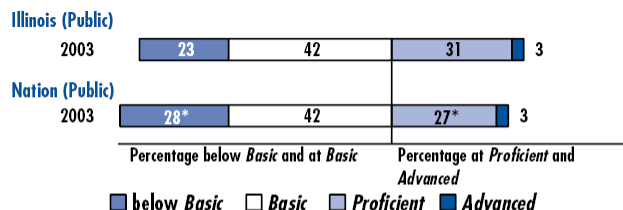


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three contexts described in the NAEP framework: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

### Overall Reading Results for Illinois

- In 2003, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Illinois was 266.
- Illinois' average score (266) in 2003 was higher<sup>1</sup> than that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Of the 53 states and jurisdictions<sup>2</sup> that participated in the 2003 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in Illinois were higher than those in 21 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 24 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 7 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 35 percent in 2003. The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 77 percent.

### Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels



**NOTE:** The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500, with the achievement levels corresponding to the following points: *Below Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; *Advanced*, 323 or above.

### Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Illinois

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	49	264 ↑	25 ↓	44	28 ↑	2
Female	51	269 ↑	21	40	34	4
White	63	276 ↑	13 ↓	42	40 ↑	5
Black	20 ↑	247	44	43	13	#
Hispanic	14	250 ↑	39 ↓	45	15	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	3 ↓	281 ↑	13	34	45	8
American Indian/Alaska Native	# ↓	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-price school lunch						
Eligible	34	249 ↑	41	44	14	1
Not eligible	62	276 ↑	13 ↓	41	41 ↑	5

### Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2003, male students in Illinois had an average score that was lower than that of female students (6 points). This performance gap was narrower than that of the Nation (11 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (29 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (26 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (27 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (25 points).

### Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

Scale Score Distribution			
	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Illinois	245 ↑	269 ↑	290 ↑
Nation (Public)	240	264	286

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0–500 NAEP reading scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 286, and 75 percent of students in Illinois scored below 290.

# The estimate rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

\* Significantly different from Illinois.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

<sup>1</sup> Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

<sup>2</sup> "Jurisdictions" includes participating states and other jurisdictions (such as the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools). NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for Free/reduced-price lunch is not displayed. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Assessment.